IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add the new claims presented below. For the convenience of the Examiner, an unmarked version of all pending claims is provided.

1. A method of encoding or encrypting data, comprising:

providing an assembly of information-bearing sounds (ISA);

removing one or more selected segments of the assembly, to produce a specified data file;

providing an encoding/encryption key and encoding or encrypting the specified data file; and

communicating the encoded or encrypted specified data file in a first selected communication channel and communicating the removed segments in a second selected communication channel.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a data supplement that indicates at least one of: location of at least one of said removed segments within said ISA; size of at least one of said removed segments within said ISA; number of segments removed; separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within said ISA; and a selected portion of said encoding/encryption key; and

communicating said data supplement in said second selected communication channel.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said encoding/encryption key with at least one key parameter that uses information from at least one of said removed segments.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting said first and second communication channels to be the same channel.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said second channel as a secure communication channel.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising concatenating said removed segments and said data supplement as a concatenated data file.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising encrypting said specified data file using cipher block chaining of at least one block of said concatenated data file and at least one encrypted block from said specified data file.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising providing said at least one encryption parameter for said encoding/encryption key by providing a block of said concatenated data file as an initial block for said at least one encrypted block of said data.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing at least first and second segments from said data file, where the first segment and the second segment have equal length.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising removing at least first and second segments from said data file, where the first segment and the second segment have different lengths.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising combining said removed segments with said specified data file to form a combined data file and reproducing the combined data file as an assembly of sounds.

12. A method of decoding or decrypting data, comprising:

providing an encoded or encrypted first data file;

providing a second data file and a data supplement that indicates at least one of: an assigned location of at least one designated segment of the second data file within a non-coded and non-encrypted version of the first data file; size of at least one designated segment of the second data file within the non-coded and non-encrypted first data file; number of selected segments designated; separation distance of at least two consecutive designated segments of the second data file within the non-coded and non-encrypted first data file; and a selected

portion of an encoding/encryption key used to encoded or encrypt the first data file; and

using the data supplement to decode or decrypt the encoded or encrypted first data file and to position at least a first sequence and a second sequence, drawn from the second data file, within the first data file.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising: providing said encoded or encrypted first data file on a first communication channel and providing said concatenation of said second data file and said data supplement on a second communication channel.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising selecting said first and second communication channels to be the same channel.

Cont Q1

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising providing said second channel as a secure communication channel.

16. The method of claim 19, further comprising determining at least one parameter of said encoding/encryption key using information in said second data file.

17. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing said encoded or encrypted first data file using cipher block chaining of at least one block of said

concatenation of said second data file and said data supplement and at least one encoded or encrypted block from said first data file.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising providing at least one encoding/encryption key parameter for said encoding/encryption key by providing at least one of said first sequence and said second sequence as an initial block for said at least one encoded/encrypted block of said data.

19. The method of claim 12, further comprising providing said second data file and said data supplement as a concatenated data file.

20. The method of claim 12, further comprising combining said removed segments with said specified data file to form a combined data file and reproducing the combined data file as an assembly of sounds.

Cont Cl. 1

21. A method of communicating data, the method comprising:

providing an assembly of information-bearing sounds as a digital file of data;

removing one or more selected segments from the data file, to produce a specified data file having at least a first block and a second block;

providing an encoding/encryption key having at least a first key portion and a second key portion;

providing a data supplement that indicates at least one of: location of at least one of the removed segments within the data file; size of at least one

of the removed segments within the data file; number of segments removed; separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the data file; and at least a portion of the encoding/encryption key;

encoding or encrypting the first block and the second block of the specified data file, using the first portion and the second portion, respectively, of the encoding/encryption key; and

communicating the encoded or encrypted specified data file in a first selected communication channel and communicating the removed segments and the data supplement in a second selected communication channel.

---

22. (New) A method for delivering a digital sound file, the method comprising:

dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files;

encrypting at least a portion of the first data file using an encryption key;

communicating the encrypted first data file in a first communication channel; and

communicating the second data file in a second selected communication channel.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the digital sound file comprises a plurality of segments, and the dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files comprises:

removing a portion of the plurality of segments from the digital sound file;

storing the removed segments in the first data file; and

storing the un-removed segments in the second data file.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the second data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:

location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,

size of the removed segments,

number of removed segments,

separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the digital sound file, and

a portion of the encryption key.

25. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the encryption key includes a key parameter that uses information from at least one of the removed segments.

26. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the first and second communication channels are different channels.

27. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the second channel comprises a secure communication channel.

28. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein one of the first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

29. (New) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

decrypting the encrypted first data file; and

combining the first and second data files to reform the digital sound file.

30. (New) A method for creating a digital sound file, comprising:

receiving an encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;

receiving a second data file in a second selected communication channel;

decrypting the encrypted first data file; and

combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file.

Cont a2

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the second data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:

location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,

size of the removed segments,

number of removed segments,

separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the digital sound file, and

a portion of an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted first data file.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the first and second data files each include one or more segments, and combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file comprises:

using the data supplement to position the segments from the first and second data files into the digital sound file.

33. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the second channel comprises a secure communication channel.

cont'd A2

34. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

35. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein decrypting the encrypted first data file includes using a key, at least one parameter of the key determined from information in the second data file.

36. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium containing computer program code for delivering a digital sound file, the computer program code comprising instructions for:

dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files;

encrypting at least a portion of the first data file using an encryption key;

communicating the encrypted first data file in a first communication channel; and

communicating the second data file in a second selected communication channel.

A2 cont

37. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the digital sound file comprises a plurality of segments, and the dividing the digital sound file into first and second data files comprises:

removing a portion of the plurality of segments from the digital sound file;

storing the removed segments in the first data file; and

storing the un-removed segments in the second data file.

38. (New) The computer program product of claim 37, wherein the second data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:

location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,

size of the removed segments,

number of removed segments,

separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the digital sound file, and

a portion of the encryption key.

39. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the encryption key includes a key parameter that uses information from at least one of the removed segments.

40. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the first and second communication channels are different channels.

cont 1 of 2

41. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the second channel comprises a secure communication channel.

42. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein one of the first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

43. (New) The computer program product of claim 36, further comprising:

decrypting the encrypted first data file; and

combining the first and second data files to reform the digital sound file.

44. (New) A computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium containing computer program code for creating a digital sound file, the computer program code comprising instructions for:

receiving an encrypted first data file in a first communication channel;

receiving a second data file in a second selected communication channel;

decrypting the encrypted first data file; and

combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file.

45. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the second data file includes a data supplement that indicates at least one of:

location within the digital sound file of the removed segments,

size of the removed segments,

number of removed segments,

separation distance between two consecutive removed segments within the digital sound file, and

a portion of an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted first data file.

46. (New) The computer program product of claim 45, wherein the first and second data files each include one or more segments, and combining the first and second data files to form the digital sound file comprises:

using the data supplement to position the segments from the first and second data files into the digital sound file.

47. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein the second channel comprises a secure communication channel.

48. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein one of the first and second data files is substantially larger than the other.

49. (New) The computer program product of claim 44, wherein decrypting the encrypted first data file includes using a key, at least one parameter of the key determined from information in the second data file.